

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1-7, 9-18, 20-23, and 25 are pending. Claims 24 and 26 are canceled by the present amendment. Claims 8 and 19 were canceled previously. Claims 1 and 12 are amended in light of the allowable subject matter indicated in the outstanding Office Action. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 24 and 26 were objected to as not specifying the type of “charging” recited. Claims 1, 7, 9-12, 18, 20-23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Flanigan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,414, herein “Flanigan”) in view of Ohmi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,217,633, herein “Ohmi”). Claims 2 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Flanigan, Ohmi, and Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,625,526, herein “Watanabe”). Claims 3, 4, 5, 14, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Flanigan, Ohmi, and Nagasaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,215,643, herein “Nagasaki”). Claims 6 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Flanigan, Ohmi, Nagasaki, and Paschen. Claims 24 and 26 were indicated as reciting allowable subject matter.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 24 and 26 recite allowable subject matter. Independent Claims 1 and 12 have been amended in accordance with the indication of allowable subject matter inasmuch as Claims 1 and 12 are amended to recite the features of Claims 24 and 26, respectively. Claims 24 and 26 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to Claims 24 and 26 is negated.

Regarding the objection to Claims 24 and 26 as may apply to Claims 1 and 12, respectively, the term “charging” is modified by the word “electrical” in amended

independent Claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to Claims 24 and 26, to the extent it may be applied to amended independent Claims 1 and 12, is overcome.

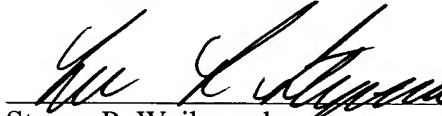
Regarding the rejections of Claims 1, 7, 9-12, 18, 20-23, and 25 as obvious over Flanigan and Ohmi, of Claims 2 and 3 as obvious over Flanigan, Ohmi, and Watanabe, of Claims 3, 4, 5, 14, 15, and 16 as obvious over Flanigan, Ohmi, and Nagasaki, and the rejection of Claims 6 and 17 as obvious over Flanigan, Ohmi, Nagasaki, and Paschen, Applicants respectfully submit that as amended independent Claims 1 and 12 are amended in light of the indication of allowable subject matter, the rejections are overcome.

As all the remaining claims depend from one of amended independent Claims 1 and 12, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-7, 9-18, 20-23, and 25 is earnestly solicited.

Should Examiner Dahimene deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, Examiner Dahimene is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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